

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Cancelled)
2. (Cancelled)
3. (Cancelled)
4. (Currently amended) An adjustable pipe wrench, comprising:
 - a slide bar having a gripping portion;
 - an upper jaw mounted pivotally to the slide bar and a spring mounted between the upper jaw and the slide bar;
 - a lower jaw, slidably mounted on the slide bar, said lower jaw having a lower portion receiving the slide bar extending toward the gripping portion and an upper portion not intersecting with and apart from the slide bar, and supported only by the lower portion; said lower portion having a length in a direction along the slide bar; and
 - a brake lever, pivotally mounted between the upper and lower portions of the lower jaw and spring-biased against said lower jaw wherein a portion of the brake lever extends longitudinally, adjacent the lower portion for substantially said length and substantially the same length as the lower portion of the lower jaw, and wherein a user may adjust a position of the lower jaw on the slide bar by actuating said brake lever and moving said lower jaw relative to said slide bar.
5. (Currently amended) The wrench of Claim 4, wherein the brake lever has an operation portion angled so it extends generally parallel to the slide bar.
6. (Previously presented) The wrench of Claim 4, wherein the lower jaw has a thumb-resting portion to facilitate movement by a thumb of an operator.

7. (Currently amended) The wrench of Claim 4, wherein the brake lever has an orifice for slidably mounting around the slide bar.

8. (Previously presented) The wrench of Claim 4, wherein the slide bar further comprises a ratcheting mechanism, said ratcheting mechanism including a surface of the brake lever and teeth on a surface of the slide bar.

9. (Previously presented) The wrench of Claim 8, wherein the ratcheting mechanism advances said lower jaw toward said upper jaw in increments.

10. (Previously presented) The wrench of Claim 4, further comprising gripping surfaces on the upper jaw and lower jaw.

11. (Cancelled)

12. (Cancelled)

13. (Cancelled)

14. (Cancelled)

15. (Cancelled)

16. (Currently amended) An adjustable hand clamp, comprising:

a slide bar having a gripping portion;

an upper jaw mounted pivotally to the slide bar and ~~a spring mounted between the upper jaw and the slide bar;~~

a lower jaw, slidably mounted on the slide bar, said lower jaw having a first portion on only a first side of the slide bar extending toward the upper jaw and a second portion on a first side and a second side of the slide bar extending in an opposite direction toward the gripping portion, said second portion having a gripping surface opposite said first portion; and

a brake lever, pivotally mounted on ~~one of said portions of the lower jaw~~ and spring-biased against said ~~second portion of the lower jaw~~, wherein a portion of the brake lever extends to

said gripping surface such that a thumb of a user can contact both the gripping surface and said portion of the brake lever at the same time longitudinally, and substantially the same length as the second portion of the lower jaw, and wherein a user adjusts a position of the lower jaw on the slide, by depressing said brake lever and repositioning the lower jaw with the thumb.

17. (Currently amended) The clamp of Claim 16, wherein the brake lever has an orifice for slidably mounting around the slide bar.

18. (Previously presented) The clamp of Claim 16, wherein the slide bar further comprises a ratcheting mechanism, said ratcheting mechanism including a surface of the brake lever and teeth on a surface of the slide bar.

19. (Original) The clamp of Claim 18, wherein the ratcheting mechanism advances said lower jaw toward said upper jaw in increments.

20. (Currently amended) The clamp of Claim 16, ~~further comprising gripping surfaces on the upper jaw and lower jaw~~ wherein said lower portion defines a recess for receiving said portion of the lever.

21. (Currently amended) A method of grasping an object with one hand using an adjustable hand tool having a brake lever, the method comprising:

providing the object and the hand tool, the hand tool comprising a slide bar, and a lower jaw and a pivotable upper jaw mounted on the slide bar

gripping the hand tool with one hand;

~~adjusting a gap between jaws of the hand tool with the same hand,~~ using the lower jaw and the pivotable upper jaw of the hand tool, wherein the lower jaw has a lower portion on a first side and a second side of the slide bar, the lower portion extending toward a gripping portion of the hand tool and an upper portion not intersecting with the slide bar and supported only by the lower portion, the upper portion extending toward the pivotable jaw, said second portion having a gripping surface opposite said first portion and the brake lever of the hand tool is pivotally mounted on a portion of the lower jaw, and wherein a portion of the brake lever extends to said gripping surface such that a thumb of a user can contact both the gripping surface and said portion of the

brake lever at the same time longitudinally, and substantially the same length as the lower portion of the lower jaw; and

adjusting a gap between the upper jaw and the lower jaw with the same hand by depressing said brake lever with the thumb and simultaneously applying a force to said gripping surface with said thumb, and

grasping the object between the jaws.

22. (Original) The method of Claim 21, further comprising disengaging a brake lever of the hand tool, the brake lever extending substantially the same longitudinally as a lower jaw of the hand tool; and engaging the brake lever of the hand tool.

23. (Original) The method of Claim 21, further comprising tightening a grasp on the object, urging the pivotable upper jaw and a moving lower jaw to grasp the object more tightly, wherein the hand partially rotates the hand tool about the object and presses the lower jaw toward the upper jaw.

24. (Currently amended) An adjustable pipe wrench, comprising:

a single slide bar having a gripping portion;

an a-pivotable upper jaw mounted to the slide bar;

a lower jaw, slidably mounted on the slide bar, said lower jaw having a first portion extending toward the upper jaw, wherein said first portion does not intersect the slide bar, and a second portion extending in an opposite direction toward the gripping portion, said second portion defining an orifice for receiving said single slide bar and a recess disposed along a gripping surface; and

a brake lever, pivotally mounted between the first and second portions of the lower jaw and spring-biased on the second portion of the lower jaw, wherein a portion of the brake lever extends along said longitudinally, ~~and substantially the same length as the~~ second portion of the lower jaw and into said recess, and wherein the brake lever and the slide bar form a bar-engaging mechanism, and a user may open the jaws with a thumb, disengaging the brake lever from the slide bar and urging the lower jaw away from the upper jaw.

25. (Original) The adjustable wrench of Claim 24, wherein the user closes the jaws of the

wrench by pushing the lower jaw toward the upper jaw with the thumb.

26. (Original) The adjustable wrench of Claim 24, wherein the bar-engaging mechanism further comprises teeth on a surface of the slide bar, wherein the brake lever engages the teeth and prevents opening of the jaws.

27. (Original) The adjustable wrench of Claim 24, further comprising a spring mounted between the upper jaw and the slide bar.

28. (Currently amended) The clamp of Claim 16, wherein the lower jaw is subject to motion toward the upper jaw when the lever is engaged, and is subject to motion to and from the upper jaw when the brake lever is disengaged.

29. (Currently amended) An adjustable pipe wrench, comprising:

a slide bar having a gripping portion;

a lower jaw slidably mounted on the slide bar, said lower jaw having a lower portion extending toward the gripping portion and an upper portion on only one side of the slide bar,

an upper jaw having a gripping surface disposed on said one side of the slide bar, said upper jaw mounted pivotally to the slide bar and having a spring captured between said upper jaw and said slide bar, said spring biasing said upper jaw so that the gripping surface of said upper jaw is biased toward said lower jaw; and

a brake lever, pivotally mounted on a portion of the lower jaw and spring-biased against said lower jaw wherein a portion of the brake lever extends such that the lower portion is between the brake lever and the slide bar longitudinally, and substantially the same length as the lower portion of the lower jaw, and wherein a user may adjust a position of the lower jaw on the slide by actuating said brake lever and moving said lower jaw relative to said slide bar.